

AARON CORNISH.

JUNE 17, 1910.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. KAHN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 7539.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 7539) for the relief of Aaron Cornish, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

This measure passed the Senate May 6, 1910, and the report made thereon is herewith attached and made a part of this report.

[Senate report No. 548, Sixty-first Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, which has had under consideration the bill (S. 7539) to correct the military record of Aaron Cornish, reports the same to the Senate favorably with certain amendments, as hereafter stated, and recommends that as amended the bill be passed.

After the word "sixty-two," in line 9, insert a colon and the words "*Provided, That no pension shall accrue prior to the approval of this act.*"

Amend the title so it will read, "A bill for the relief of Aaron Cornish."

During the present session of Congress a bill (S. 4671) for the relief of this soldier was favorably reported to the Senate (S. Rept. No. 66), passed by the Senate, favorably reported to the House of Representatives (H. Rept. No. 701), and passed by the House. The act as presented to the President was as follows:

["S. 4671. Sixty-first Congress of the United States of America; at the second session, begun and held at the city of Washington on Monday, the sixth day of December, one thousand nine hundred and nine.]

"AN ACT To amend the military record of Aaron Cornish.

"*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Aaron Cornish, late assistant surgeon, Ninety-seventh Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry, shall hereafter be held and considered to have been honorably discharged from said organization on September eighth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two. And the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to grant him a certificate of honorable discharge as of that date: Provided, That no pay,*

bounty, or other emoluments shall become due or payable by virtue of the passage of this act.

"J. G. CANNON,
"Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"J. S. SHERMAN,
"Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate.

"I certify that this act originated in the Senate.

"CHAS. G. BENNETT, Secretary.
"By H. M. ROSE, Assistant Secretary."

On March 28, 1910, the President returned the bill to the Senate without approval, for the reason that its approval would necessitate "an alteration of historical records that should be kept inviolate" and the issuance of "a false certificate" of honorable discharge.

The bill hereby reported for the relief of this soldier does not carry any of the objectionable requirements mentioned in the President's message of March 28, 1910.

A portion of Senate Report No. 66, Sixty-first Congress, is quoted, in order that the facts in the case may be before the Senate in this report.

[Senate report No. 66, Sixty-first Congress, second session.]

The bill is unquestionably a just one. The record of Doctor Cornish, furnished to the committee by the War Department, which follows, warrants the committee in making a favorable report. The bill was favorably reported (S. Rept. No. 568) and passed the Senate during the Sixtieth Congress and was favorably reported by the Committee on Military Affairs of the House.

[Extract from Senate report 568, Sixtieth Congress, first session.]

Case of Aaron Cornish, late assistant surgeon, Ninety-seventh New York Infantry Volunteers.

It is shown by the official records that Aaron Cornish was mustered into service, to take effect October 23, 1861, as assistant surgeon, Ninety-seventh New York Infantry Volunteers, to serve three years. On August 18, 1862, the surgeon of the regiment, then stationed in camp near Cedar Run Mountain, Virginia, stated that Doctor Cornish left the regiment July 12, 1862, without leave; that his case was examined by the surgeon of the regiment and the brigade surgeon, and neither of them considered his case such as to require absence; that it was believed that Doctor Cornish had the verbal consent of the colonel, but that he had no leave from the brigadier-general or other authority. The surgeon also stated that he had since been verbally informed that Doctor Cornish left Washington for New Bedford, Mass., upon leave of absence granted by the Surgeon-General, but that he had no official knowledge, although he was informed that he (Cornish) left about the 28th of July.

The surgeon stated further that, in view of the probable movements, he considered it a matter of great injustice to the regiment and to himself that they should be left longer without adequate medical attendance, and earnestly requested that Doctor Cornish be required to report for duty immediately, or that a vacancy be declared in order that it might be promptly filled. He recommended that, if it should appear that the absence of Doctor Cornish from his command was without leave, his name be stricken from the rolls, to date from July 12. This report was referred, August 21, 1862, by the Surgeon-General to the Secretary of War, with the recommendation that Assistant Surgeon Cornish be dismissed from the service of the United States, and, in accordance with the recommendation, he was dismissed the service, by direction of the Secretary of War, in orders from this department dated September 8, 1862.

In the meantime it appears that Surgeon Cornish had been admitted to treatment by the attending surgeon of volunteer officers at Washington, D. C., on or about September 5, 1862, and that on that date the surgeon in charge of Trinity General Hospital, Washington, D. C., certified that he had carefully examined Doctor Cornish and found that he was suffering from chronic hepatitis and had been totally disabled during the past four months; that in consequence thereof he was unfit for duty, and that the period of his recovery was remote and uncertain. Upon that certificate it

was recommended that he be discharged the service, and the recommendation was approved by the Secretary of War October 4, 1862. Immediately after the approval of the Secretary of War, however, it was discovered that Assistant Surgeon Cornish had, as previously stated, been already dismissed the service, and therefore no further action in his case was taken by the department.

Respectfully submitted.

F. C. AINSWORTH,
The Adjutant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT, THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
February 5, 1908.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The army record in detail of Doctor Cornish, copies of War Department orders to him, and affidavits in substantiation of the statements made by Mrs. Clara Cornish Dobbin and Rev. Louis C. Cornish, daughter and son of Doctor Cornish, are attached and made a part of this report. Attention is especially called to the order of the War Department, No. 173, of July 28, 1862, granting Doctor Cornish leave of absence for twenty days on surgeon's certificate of disability, and to Major-General Halleck's order of September 5, 1862, authorizing Doctor Cornish "to return to his home, there to await the action of the War Department, he being recommended for discharge on surgeon's certificate."

In view of these orders there can be no doubt that it was the intention of the War Department that Doctor Cornish's discharge, which was made September 8, 1862, only three days after the order of General Halleck above referred to was issued, should show that it was granted on surgeon's certificate of disability.

Vindication can not be refused an officer who, returning still ill from a short leave, is rendered unable to report by reason of still more serious illness, and who is summarily dismissed without any reference to the fact that he has been directed by the commanding general to return to his home to await the decision of a competent board as to whether he shall be honorably discharged upon a surgeon's certificate of disability. The passage of the bill is therefore earnestly recommended.

The army record in detail of the late Dr. Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon of the Ninety-seventh Regiment New York State Volunteers.

Doctor Cornish was commissioned by Governor Morgan, of New York, as assistant surgeon of the Ninety-seventh Regiment New York State Volunteers, on October 31, 1861. (The commission is in possession of his son, Louis C. Cornish, of Hingham, Mass.)

He was active in the service of his regiment in November and December, 1861; and in January, February, and March, 1862, in Boonville, N. Y., there was an epidemic of smallpox and measles, besides other diseases, in the camp, and the medical work fell largely to Doctor Cornish. Among his papers are found, "Descriptive list and clothing of enlisted men," "Roll of soldiers employed on extra duty as cooks and nurses," "Invoices of property purchased with the fund for collecting, drilling, and organizing volunteers." These papers are in Doctor Cornish's handwriting, indicating the sort of extra duty which he did as assistant surgeon. (Papers in possession of his son.)

That his work was appreciated by the men in his regiment is shown by the incident briefly recorded in his memorandum book: "Friday, January 24, 1862.—Attended sick all day. Had sword presented to me this evening. Oscar Wetmore made presentation remarks, etc." The blade of the sword is inscribed: "Presented to Dr. A. Cornish, Ninety-seventh New York State Volunteers." Upon the scabbard is the inscription, "Dr. A. Cornish, from his friends in Boonville." (The sword is in possession of his son.)

On March 12, 1862, the regiment left Boonville for the South. Doctor Cornish remained to care for the sick in the hospital, following his regiment about ten days later.

The regiment was now near Washington, and Doctor Cornish tended the sick at Camp Reliance, at Couds Mills. On May 11 the regiment was at Catlets Station. The 23d they were sent toward Front Royal, in the Shenandoah Valley. June 11 they were again at Catlets Station. During this time Doctor Cornish assisted in the hospital; at Front Royal he was in charge of it.

Two items in his memorandum book (in possession of his son) indicate the nature of his work. "Monday, June 23, 1862.—Went the rounds among the sick as usual.

No time left me. Made about 100 prescriptions." "Tuesday, June 24, 1862.—Plodding the same round. Prescribe for usual number of men, complaining of various ills, so many one sometimes wonders how we came to be so extensively cursed."

When the regiment was at Warrenton, Va., Doctor Cornish was taken ill. He was sent to Washington, where he barely survived a very serious sickness. He was granted leave of absence (which is in possession of his son) for twenty days, under date of July 28, 1862, Special Orders, No. 173, by Adj. Gen. S. Thomas.

He left Washington the day following, July 29 (memorandum book), and went to New Bedford, Mass., to the home of his uncle, the late Dr. Aaron Cornish, sr., of that city, for rest and medical treatment. There he remained for something more than a fortnight, when he started to rejoin his regiment, then some distance from Washington, reaching Washington, as shown by the memorandum book, on August 16. Here he was again taken seriously ill. He was attended by Doctor Perkins, "an elderly army officer from the West," and "Doctor Elliot, a Washington physician of middle age." (Statement of Mrs. Cornish.) During this time Mrs. Cornish was seriously ill in Boonville, N. Y.; too ill to go to her husband in Washington. She received letters from him, from friends in Washington concerning him, from his physicians, and from her husband; these last written from his bed. (Statement of Mrs. Cornish.)

During this serious sickness he received the following communication from the army (the original is in possession of his son):

ARMY HEADQUARTERS,
Washington, September 5, 1862.

Dr. Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon, Ninety-seventh Regiment New York Volunteers, is authorized to return to his home, there to await the action of the War Department, he being recommended for discharge on surgeon's certificate.

By command of Major-General Halleck:

E. B. BEAUMONT,
First Lieutenant and Aide-de-Camp.

Immediately following this communication he received a formal dismissal from the War Department, of which the following is copy (the original is in possession of his son):

WAR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS,
Washington, September 8, 1862.

The following-named officer is hereby dismissed from the military service of the United States: Asst. Surg. Aaron Cornish, Ninety-seventh New York Volunteers. Special Orders, No. 228, September 8, 1862.

By command of the Secretary of War:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

As soon as he was able to travel, Doctor Cornish left Washington and went to his home in Boonville, N. Y., arriving about September 28 (memorandum book). Here he slowly recovered from his illness. In January, 1863, being still in poor health, he removed from Boonville to New Bedford, Mass. Throughout this winter he was in poor health. In June, 1863, he was again very seriously ill, barely surviving the sickness. For a number of months afterwards he was not in vigorous health. He never was strong enough to return to the army, and he never tried to return.

Further light is thrown upon his dismissal by a statement made by Mrs. Cornish: "When we were in Washington after my husband's first illness there, a number of officers absent on leave were discharged by General Pope. Some of them were at the boarding house with us and they were very angry about it. Upon application they were all reinstated. I always understood that my husband's dismissal was under some such general order and that it was independent of his leave granted by General Halleck (quoted above). Both of us believed he could have been reinstated had he made application. He intended to see to it. He was in Washington late in the autumn of 1862, when he went there to bring home the things we had left behind us; but he was in very frail health. Everything connected with the War Office took a long time, for they were busy then with other matters besides records. And he came home as quickly as he could without having attended to the matter," etc. (Statement of Mrs. Cornish.)

Inquiry at the Record and Pension Office substantiates this account. In answer to the question why Doctor Cornish was dismissed, the following report was sent to his son:

RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 11, 1903.

It is shown by the records that Aaron Cornish was mustered into service to date October 23, 1861, as assistant surgeon, Ninety-seventh New York Infantry, and that he was dismissed the service September 8, 1862, for absence without leave.

Special Orders, }
No. 173. }

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 28, 1862.

1. Leave of absence for twenty days is granted Asst. Surg. Aaron Cornish, Ninety-seventh New York Volunteers, on surgeon's certificate of disability.

By order of the Secretary of War:

L. THOMAS, *Adjutant-General.*

Official:

E. D. TOWNSEND, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, September 5, 1862.

Dr. Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon, Ninety-seventh Regiment New York Volunteers, is authorized to return to his home, there to await the action of the War Department, he being recommended for discharge on surgeon's certificate.

By command of Major-General Halleck:

E. B. BEAUMONT,
First Lieutenant and Aid-de-Camp.

Special Orders, }
No. 228. }

WAR DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS,
Washington, September 8, 1862.

* * * * *

The following-named officer is hereby dismissed from the military service of the United States:

Asst. Surg. Aaron Cornish, Ninety-seventh New York Volunteers.

* * * * *

By command of Secretary of War:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Oneida, ss:*

Frances V. Cornish, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is 73 years of age; that she was the wife of Aaron Cornish, M. D., formerly of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., and a resident of said village of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., when the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York State Volunteers was enrolled therein by Col. Charles Wheelock; that said Cornish was made assistant surgeon of said regiment; that she accompanied him to the front and remained there with him until he was granted a leave of absence; that she then accompanied him to New Bedford, Mass., and was with him on his way back to rejoin his regiment as far as New York; that she left him there and came from there to Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., and that said Cornish went on alone from New York to Washington, D. C.; that while in Washington he was taken ill and thereby prevented from rejoining his said regiment, and that while he was ill at that time and place he was dismissed from said regiment the 8th day of September, 1862; that there was no reason why he was dismissed except that he had overstayed his leave of absence; that he used his best efforts to rejoin said regiment before said leave of absence should expire, but was unable to do so by reason of said illness; that she never heard of any dissatisfaction with the services of said Cornish as said assistant surgeon of the Ninety-seventh Regiment.

FRANCES V. CORNISH.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

WM. D. SIPPELL, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Oneida County*, ss:

Henry W. Bentley, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is 68 years of age and a resident of the village of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y.; that he was a resident of such village when the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York Volunteers was therein enrolled by Col. Charles Wheelock, and has been ever since; that he was acquainted at that time with Dr. Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon of said Ninety-seventh Regiment, and also with his wife, Frances V. Cornish; that he has been acquainted with her ever since that period, often meeting her; that she is a person of good reputation and character, and that her reputation for truth and veracity is good.

HENRY W. BENTLEY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

WM. D. SIPPPELL, *Notary Public*.

This is to certify that I was personally acquainted with Dr. Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon of the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York State Volunteers. In the summer of 1862 he came from his regiment to Washington, to the residence of my brother, George A. Graves. He was a very sick man. When he had recovered sufficiently to travel, he went to the seashore in Massachusetts with a month's leave of absence. He returned to Washington in due time, but was again taken ill at my brother's and unable to return to his regiment and assume active duty. He then went North to convalesce. It was during this last illness that he was dismissed from his regiment. Early in the organizing of the Ninety-seventh Regiment my father was an officer, but when they started for the seat of war he remained at Boonville, N. Y., to recruit for another regiment before coming to Washington. A young brother of mine was in the service of the Ninety-seventh Regiment. I knew many of the officers of that regiment who were citizens of Boonville, N. Y., my former home. I never heard any other reason for the dismissal of Doctor Cornish than his illness.

EMMA R. GRAVES,
1405 W Street, Washington, D. C.

MARCH 18, 1907.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of March, 1907.

[SEAL.]

HIRAM W. BARRETT,
Notary Public for the District of Columbia.

WAYNE COUNTY, *State of New York*, ss:

H. N. Burr, of the town of Williamson, county of Wayne, and State of New York, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is now 69 years of age, and that he enlisted in the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York Volunteers November 30, 1861, and was mustered into service February 18, 1862, and served until February 18, 1865, when he was discharged.

I was a student in the office of Dr. Aaron Cornish, in the village of Boonville, at this time. I was appointed as hospital steward soon after my enlistment and filled that office during my term of service. I well remember when Dr. Aaron Cornish was commissioned as assistant surgeon and assigned to the Ninety-seventh Regiment. I was with him all the time until he was taken sick at Warrenton, Va., and was sent away to the hospital at Washington. I did not see him after that. I heard from him and was told he had been seriously ill and could not return to duty with his regiment.

During the time he was with the regiment he was a most efficient and faithful officer and had the respect and confidence of the men in the regiment. I remember when a request came for the extension of his furlough on account of sickness that it was referred to the surgeon of the regiment, Dr. F. B. Hough, for his approval, and he declined to give his approval, and wrote on the application that he be dismissed from the service for being absent without permission, and returned it to the commander of the regiment, who forwarded it to the commanding general, from which point it was sent to the department at Washington. That was the last I knew of it until I heard his name read off at the evening parade by the adjutant. There was no reflection on his deportment as an officer, for all esteemed him very highly and had confidence in his ability to treat diseases and dress wounds. Dr. F. B. Hough was a stern man and could not put up with anything that was not strictly disciplinary, and he had but few intimate friends in the regiment, and I always said that he did Doctor Cornish a great injustice in recommending his dismissal from service when he was sick.

I think the record should be changed and he be placed on record as having been permitted to resign, and be given an honorable discharge from the United States service, for the sake of his widow and surviving children. Doctor Hough, the surgeon, was later dismissed from the service for incompetency and afterwards was permitted to resign and receive an honorable discharge from service. Doctor Cornish was faithful to the men who came to him for care and treatment, and I never heard any complaint of his neglecting any soldier that needed his attention. I have stated the facts as I remember them at this long time away.

H. N. BURR,

Late Hospital Steward, Ninety-seventh Regiment New York Volunteers.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

JUDSON L. TRANSUE, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Wayne County, clerk's office, ss:*

I, Ledyard S. Cuyler, clerk of the county court in and for the county aforesaid, do hereby certify that Judson L. Transue, whose genuine signature appears to the annexed jurat, was at the time of signing the same a notary public in and for the county and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn; that all his official acts as such are entitled to full faith and credit; and that the aforesaid county court is a court of record.

Given under my hand and seal of office, the seal of said court and county, at Lyons, this 31st day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

L. S. CUYLER, *Clerk.*

By GEO. KENT, *Deputy Clerk.*

ROME, N. Y., *December 31, 1906.*

DEAR NEPHEW: At your mother's request, I write concerning some facts attending your father's (Dr. A. A. Cornish) services in the Ninety-seventh Regiment New York State Volunteers as assistant surgeon. I was a resident of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., when the regiment was organized, and was present when the regiment left Boonville in April, 1862, and know that Doctor Cornish went out with the regiment as assistant surgeon. I was well acquainted with many of the officers. Also that Doctor Cornish about a year later returned to Boonville in very poor health, and I never heard of any other cause for his leaving the regiment. In the year 1866 I had occasion to visit him in New Bedford, Mass., and that at that time he was practicing his profession and was in poor health, said by him to be the effects of his service in the army.

Yours, truly,

E. L. HINCKLEY.

LOUIS C. CORNISH, Esq.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Oneida County, ss:*

E. L. Hinckley, being duly sworn, says that he is 68 years of age; that he is a resident of the city of Rome, N. Y., that he has read the above statement and subscribed the same, and that it is correct and true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22d day of January, 1907.

BYRON E. WHITE,

Notary Public, Oneida County, N. Y.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Oneida County, ss:*

A. B. Snow, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is 66 years of age; that he is a resident of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., and was at the time the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York State Volunteers was enrolled by Col. Charles Wheelock, of Boonville, N. Y.; that he was a captain in said regiment, and was well acquainted with Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon of said regiment and a resident of Boonville, N. Y., at that time; that said Cornish was a physician in good standing, and that he never heard of any dissatisfaction with him as regards his work in the army or of any reason why he was dismissed from the service other than that he had overstayed the period of a furlough granted him.

A. B. SNOW.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

W. D. SIPPELL, *Notary Public.*

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Oneida County*, ss:

E. E. Sawyer, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is 77 years of age, that he is a resident of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., and was at the time the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York Volunteers was enrolled by Col. Charles Wheelock, of Boonville, N. Y.; that he was a captain in said regiment, and was well acquainted with Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon of said regiment, and a resident of Boonville, N. Y., at that time; that said Cornish was a physician of excellent professional standing, and that he never heard of any dissatisfaction with him as regards his work in the army or of any reason why he was dismissed from the service other than that he had overstayed the period of a furlough.

ELMER E. SAWYER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

W. D. SIPPELL, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Oneida County*, ss:

William Comstock, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is 75 years of age and has always resided in Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y.; that he was well acquainted with Dr. Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon of the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York State Volunteers, formerly of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y.; that said Cornish was a physician of first-class standing in Boonville, N. Y.; and that he has never heard of any reason why said Cornish was dismissed from the army other than that he was ill in Washington on his way to rejoin his command at the end of a furlough, and so was not back at the expiration of said furlough.

WM. COMSTOCK.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

WM. D. SIPPELL, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Jefferson County*, ss:

Calvin V. Graves, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he resides at Natural Bridge, Jefferson County, N. Y.; that he is 61 years of age and was a member of the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York State Volunteers, recruited at Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., by Col. Charles Wheelock; that he was born and brought up at Boonville, N. Y., and was a resident there at the time said regiment was organized; that he was well acquainted with Dr. Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon of said regiment; that said Cornish was a physician in good standing in Boonville, N. Y.; that he has never heard any criticisms of his professional services, or of any dissatisfaction with him as such assistant surgeon, and that he never heard of any reason why said Cornish was dismissed from the United States military service other than that he had overstayed his furlough without leave.

CALVIN V. GRAVES.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

C. C. LAKIE, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *County of Oneida*, ss:

James Hyland, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a resident of the town of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., and is 81 years of age; that he was a resident of said town when the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York Volunteers was enrolled therein by Col. Charles Wheelock, and has been ever since; that he was well acquainted at that time with Dr. Aaron Cornish, assistant surgeon of said Ninety-seventh Regiment, and that he was a physician of excellent standing, practicing his profession in Boonville, N. Y., at that time; that he never heard of any reason why said Cornish was dismissed from the service other than that he had overstayed his leave of absence.

JAMES HYLAND.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

WM. D. SIPPELL, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Oneida County*, ss:

E. E. Austin, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a resident of Boonville, and is 69 years of age; that he was a resident of said village of Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y., when the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York Volunteers was enrolled therein by Col. Charles Wheelock, and has been ever since; that he was well acquainted with Dr. Aaron Cornish, of said village; that he was a physician of ability, practicing his profession in Boonville, N. Y., and made the assistant surgeon of said Ninety-seventh Regiment; that he never heard of any reason why said Cornish was dismissed from the service other than that he overstayed a leave of absence.

E. E. AUSTIN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

WM. D. SIPPELL, *Notary Public*.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *Oneida County*, ss:

Rosannah Austin, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is 70 years of age, and that she has always resided in Boonville, Oneida County, N. Y.; that she is a niece of Colonel Wheelock, of Boonville, N. Y., now deceased, who organized the Ninety-seventh Regiment of New York State Volunteers; that she was personally acquainted with Asst. Surg. Dr. Aaron Cornish, late of New Bedford, Mass., and formerly and at the time of the organization of said Ninety-seventh Regiment of Boonville, N. Y., that he was her family physician; that she never heard of any reason for his leaving said regiment other than ill health; that he was an able physician in excellent standing in Boonville, N. Y.; and that she never heard of any dissatisfaction with him while in his army service.

ROSANNAH AUSTIN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of January, 1907.

[SEAL.]

WM. D. SIPPELL, *Notary Public*.

We, the undersigned, have examined and compared the original documents with the copy hereto annexed, and do hereby certify that all the original documents referred to in the foregoing copy are in existence, and that the foregoing instrument, which purports to set forth correct copies of all the original papers, we find upon examination does correctly set forth copies of the originals.

In witness whereof we hereunto set our hands and seals at Newton, county of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this 18th day of April, in the year 1907.

SAMUEL L. POWERS.

[SEAL.]

ADELBERT L. HUDSON.

[SEAL.]

MUNSTER CHAUNCEY CHURCH.

(The Hon. Samuel L. Powers was a member of the 57th and 58th Congresses.)



